

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly replace Claims 1 to 8 as follows:

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1. (Amended) Kit for diagnosing disc herniation,  
comprising antigens from nucleus pulposus cells for determining the presence of  
antibodies to nucleus pulposus.
  2. (Amended) A method for the treatment of disc herniation comprising  
administering an effective amount of an anti-antibody to antibodies of nucleus pulposus  
cells to a patient in need of such treatment.
  3. (Amended) A method for the treatment of disc herniation comprising  
administering an effective amount of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus cells to a patient  
in need of such treatment, which false antibody is able to bind to and block the antigen in  
such a way that an immunological reaction is inhibited.
  4. (Amended) A method or for the diagnosis or treatment of disc herniation  
comprising administering any effective amount of soluble antigens from nucleus pulposus  
cells to a patient in need of treatment.
  5. (Amended) A method for treating disc herniation comprising administering to a  
patient in need of treatment a therapeutically efficient amount of a compound that prevents  
the binding of serum antibodies to nucleus pulposus cells to bind to nucleus pulposus.

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6. (Amended) A method for treating disc herniation comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-antibody to antibodies of nucleus pulposus cells.

7. (Amended) A method for treating disc herniation comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus, which false antibody is able to bind to and block the antigen in such a way that an immunological reaction is inhibited.

8. (Amended) A method for treating disc herniation comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of soluble antigens from nucleus pulposus cells.

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